INTERMISSION "SMILES"

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I LIVED WITH MY MOM IN A SMALL APARTMENT...

MOM HAD A PART-TIME JOB, BUT I WAS OFTEN ALONE AT HOME.

WHEN A BOY IS ALONE... HE DOESN'T TALK.

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO LAUGH ANYMORE.

EVEN AFTER THE SAIGA FAMILY ADOPTED ME...

EVEN AT SCHOOL.

I WAS WATCHING MY CLASSMATES HAVING FUN. I THOUGHT THEY WERE GOOD AT IT, AND I WAS SECRETLY HOPING THAT THEY COULD MAKE ME LAUGH.

I DIDN'T THINK I WAS SAD,

BUT... I ALMOST NEVER LAUGHED.

HELLO, IT'S MASARU! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!

INTERMISSION
"SMILES"

AFTER SEVERAL PUNCHES IN THE NOSE, THEY ENDED UP SPITTING NOODLES OUT FROM THEIR NOSTRILS!!

I'M TELLING YOU, THEY'RE THE ONES WHO WERE LOOKING FOR A FIGHT IN FRONT OF THE NOODLE SHOP!

LIKE THAT!

PFLORP!

HAHAHA!!

SUDDENLY, HIRO SPIT NOODLES OUT OF HIS NOSE!!

I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!!

AFTER THAT, THEY CAME BACK WITH ABOUT TWENTY OF THEIR FRIENDS!

FLATCH...

THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS HAS ACTUALLY STOPPED IN A COASTAL TOWN IN THE IZU AREA.

FOR NOW, MR. NAKAMACHI HAS A JOB AS A WORKMAN IN A SHIPYARD.

SHUT UP!! I'LL BE STARTING WORK EARLY TOMORROW MORNING!

BUT WE HAD TROUBLES ...

LAAAA LA LA LA ON

THE SHOWS WE'VE HELD IN THE PARK DIDN'T WORK WELL. WE'VE DONE THREE OR FOUR OF THEM.

SO, MR NAKAMACHI DECIDED SOMETHING.

...

BECAUSE OUR EQUIPMENT IS TOO OLD.

I WANTED TO MAKE MYSELF USEFUL... DOING SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

I WILL WORK HARD SO THAT WE CAN HAVE SOME SHOWS WITH RELIABLE EQUIPMENT!

YES, SIR!

SPOF

YOU'LL WATCH THE HOUSE, KID!

I DON'T THINK I'M A GOOD COOK...

I'M SORRY!
YOU WANNA KILL US?
WHAT'S THIS DISGUSTING THING?!
AH!
WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO SWITCH BEDS WITH ME SOMETIMES?
SAY, MASARU...
YES...
I'M GOING TO BED NOW.
LISTEN ...
WELL... NOTHING.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HIRO!! YOU DAMN LIAR!!
DA DA
YOU KNOW, IN THIS OLD THREE-WHEEL TRUCK, I'M KINDA BORED...
NO PROBLEM. WHY?
YES... OKAY...
MASARU, ME TOO!!
I'M SWITCHING BEDS!

HHHH!!

DAAH

WHAT'S WITH THEM ALL OF A SUDDEN?

LET'S TAKE A LOOK...

SHI-SHI-SHI-SHI-SHIROGANE!!

PERV! YOU ONLY THINK OF THAT!!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR DAYS FOR LISELOTTE TO LEAVE FOR THE USA AND SETTLE HER BUSINESS!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

AT-LAST, TONIGHT...

...SHE'S GONNA ACCEPT MY LOVE!

ROCK! PAPER! SCISSORS!

HM?!

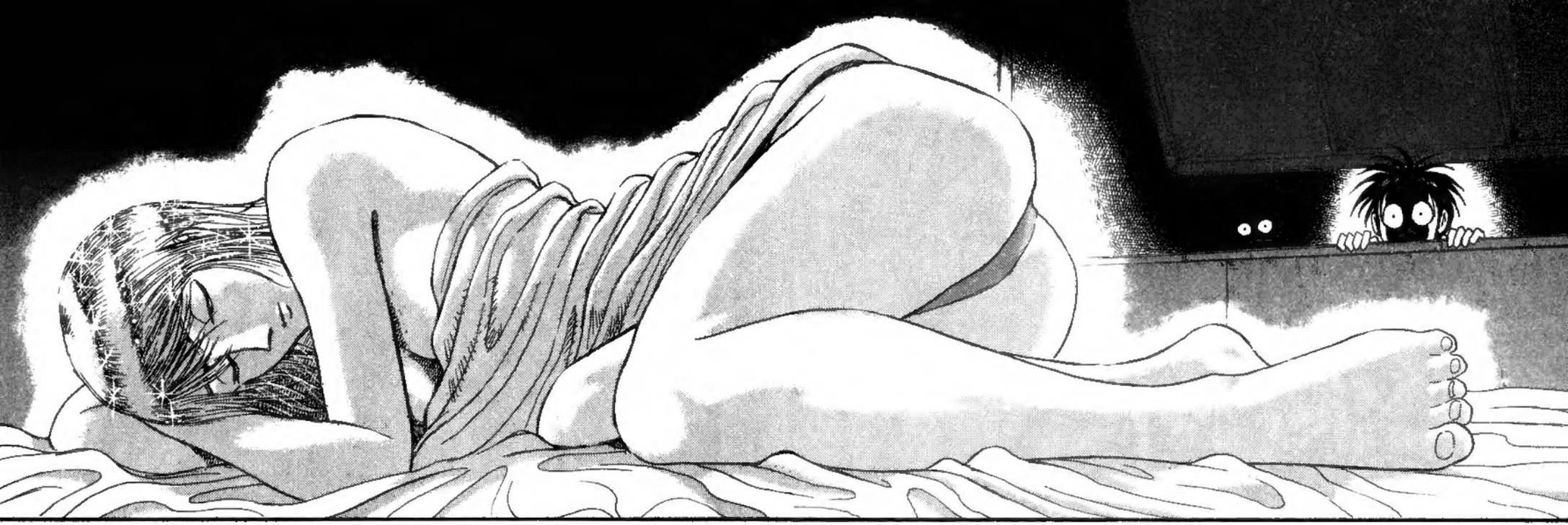
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY KEEP DOING THIS. THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BE STRONGER THAN SHIROGANE!

YOU MAY BE WONDERING WHY I'M SO CALM.

IT'S ALREADY THE EIGHTH TIME.

THAT'S BECAUSE ...

SAH...



SHIRO-
GANE!
I...
YOU...
WITH ME,
SHIROGANE!
WITH ME!
GH
GH
BRR BRR
BRR

ZOH

PFLUAATCH

COME
WITH ME,
SHIRO-
GANE...
COME!!
RRUGT
!

BYOO
!
VBLUP!

BADADA!
NYA!
HAYA!
POPOPO

CLAC CLAC CLAC CLAC CLAC

A MISTAKE ...

THIS IS...

GLOUDS

CLIC

CLIC CLAC

AH...

ZOOOH

CLIC

S.P.F
S.P.F
EVEN THAT IS A NO...
JUST A KISS!
THE SAME THING ALWAYS HAPPENS! WHY DO THEY KEEP COMING BACK?
OH, YOUNG MASTER!
She's not angry anymore?!
HMMM...
UH, SHIROGANE, PUT SOME CLOTHES ON, PLEASE!!
WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU THIRSTY?
Yes, that's true...
We could see her at least

NEWS

CN

"IN CARNAC, FRANCE, THE POLICE ENTERED BY FORCE."

"...A BUILDING WHERE A GANG OF KIDNAPPERS WERE HIDING"

NNOOH...

"ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, SEVERAL PERSONS COULD'VE DIED DURING THE ASSAULT..."

IT'S DANGEROUS IN FRANCE TOO!

DAMN!

"THE CRIMINALS WERE HEAVILY ARMED..."

YES.

THERE ARE MYSTERIOUS STONES THERE.

SO MAYBE YOU KNOW CARNAC.

SHIROGANE, YOU COME FROM FRANCE, DON'T YOU?

"LIEUTENANT JEAN MALICLAIR, WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION, COMMENTED."

"WELL... THANKS TO THE COLLABORATION OF SHIRO... HM, CIVILIANS WHO WERE ON THE SCENE, THE CRIMINALS HAVE BEEN NEUTRALIZED..."

ZOING

YEEEES!

HIRO, NORI, BREAKFAST'S READY.

YES!

MASARU, BEFORE I GO TO WORK, LET'S DO SOME LITTLE EXERCISES!

THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL!

DON'T BE IMPATIENT. IF YOU TRAIN WELL, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP YOUR BALANCE.

YOU MUST ALWAYS HAVE ONE FOOT BELOW TO STABILIZE YOU. THE OTHER ONE MUST MOVE FORWARD AND BACK-WARD.

HANG ON CARE-FULLY.

HA!

HEH!!

ZAF

MASARU ...

COURAGEOUS!

GRR...

YOUNG MASTER !!

WAHAHAHA!!

WELL...

YES.

IT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU TOO, SHIROGANE ...

...I'M SURE YOU THOUGHT THAT I HIT THE GROUND IN AN UNBELEVABLE POSITION, DIDN'T YOU?

NO, WE DIDN'T LAUGH!!

AS YOU LAUGHED AT THE YOUNG MASTER, I THINK YOU

CLIC CLAC

KIDS HAVE AN INNATE SENSE OF BALANCE! MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

I'VE DECIDED TO LEARN CIRCUS TECHNIQUES, LITTLE BY LITTLE.

Hm... You're not really sturdy either...

FIVE, SIX, AND SEEEEVEN ...

WELL, LET'S STOP THERE. IF YOU HAVE TOO MANY MUSCLES AT YOUR AGE...

YOU WON'T GROW UP.

OUAHHH HHAA!!

BECAUSE I DON'T WANNA JUST "STAY" IN THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS.

YES, GOOD. RELAX YOUR SHOULDERS AND ALWAYS KEEP YOUR WRISTS SUPPLE...

SHIROGANE LOOKS KINDA HAPPY...

NOW, IT'S MY TURN TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING, YOUNG MASTER...

THE FINGERS MUST ONLY MOVE QUICKLY AT THE BEGINNING OF A SEQUENCE.

YES, OKAY.

HOWEVER, YOU ARE RICH. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEARN THOSE THINGS.

YOUNG MASTER, IF YOU ALLOW ME TO SAY THIS... YOU LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY...

WHEN I LOOKED AT MY CLASSMATES MAKING ONE ANOTHER LAUGH, I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD'VE ALSO LIKED...

...TO HAVE PEOPLE AROUND ME, TO MAKE ME LAUGH TOO.

I DIDN'T LAUGH MUCH.

BEFORE, I WAS LIKE YOU...

AH?

LET ME EXPLAIN...

IT'S NOT WHEN SOMEONE'S MAKING ME LAUGH THAT I REALLY FELT HAPPY...

...

WHY'S THAT?

BUT... I THINK THAT...

IT'S A LITTLE BIT SILLY TO THINK THIS WAY.

BUT WHEN I ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING...

...BY MYSELF.

IT'S NORMAL TO FEEL GOOD WHEN SHIROGANE'S HOLDING YOU IN HER ARMS!!

EVEN LIKE THAT?

SHIRO-GANE...

I BELIEVE I'M REALLY HAPPY NOW!

...

I LAUGH FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE...

"THE SOFT STONE ...

...IS WITH THE ONE WITH A GOOD SMILE"